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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Michael HARVILLE

Confirmation No.: 3564

Application No.: 10/698,685

Examiner: Alam, U.

Filing Date: 10/30/03

Group Art Unit: 2157

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A STREAMING MEDIA SERVICE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
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PO Box 1450
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TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on 03/20/07.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) $500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

☐ (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d)) for the total number of months checked below:

☐ 1st Month $120	☐ 2nd Month $450	☐ 3rd Month $1020	☐ 4th Month $1590

☐ The extension fee has already been filed in this application.

☒ (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of $ 500. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant:	Harville, et al.	Patent Application	
Application No.:	10/698,685	Group Art Unit:	2157
Filed:	October 30, 2003	Examiner:	Alam, Uzma

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A STREAMING MEDIA SERVICE

APPEAL BRIEF

05/25/2007 CNEGA1 00000052 082025 10698685
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I. Real Party in Interest

The assignee of the present invention is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences known to the Appellants.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1 & 36-74 are rejected. Claims 1 and 36-74 are pending. Claims 2-35 are cancelled. This Appeal involves Claims 1 & 36-74.

IV. Status of Amendments

All proposed amendments have been entered. An amendment subsequent to the Final Action has not been filed.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Independent Claims 1 and 54 of the present application pertain to embodiments associated with a method and computer readable medium for managing a steaming media service. Claim 61 pertains to a system for providing steaming content to a client device.

1. Claim 1

As recited in Claim 1, a "method for managing a streaming media service" is described. This embodiment is depicted in Figures 19 and 16. As shown at Figure 19, "[a]t operation 1902, a request for a streaming media service is received from a client wherein the streaming media service includes a media service component" (page 131, lines 16-20. Moreover, the specification recites that, "[a]t the beginning of a session, client device 150 sends message 1 to a portal (e.g., 140). It is noted that message 1 identifies a particular item of content (e.g., the name of a movie)" page 108, lines 9 - 12 and Figure 17A. "...[M]essage 1 includes information sufficient for identifying a type of service that should be performed on the item of content before the service result is delivered to client device 150 and/or to other destination devices" (Figure 17A and page 108, lines 14 - 19). The specification recites that, "[a] type of service may be performed on an item of content before the content is provided to the client device...[t]ypes of service can include the processing of an item of content and/or the analysis of an item of content" (page 95, lines 16-22).

"At operation 1904 of Figure 19, a service location manager to which to provide the request is selected from a plurality of service location managers" (page 131, lines 22-25). Moreover, the specification recites that "[a]fter receiving message 1, portal 140 selects a serviced location manager (e.g., 120 or 122) to which to send message 2" (page 109 lines 12-13). The service location manger is configured for selecting a service provider from a plurality of services providers, for example, the "...[s]ervice location manger 120 (and 122) can maintain a record that includes a list of the service providers (e.g., 130 and 132) and the services they are capable of providing" (Figure 17A and page 114 lines 8-10); and the

"...service location manger 120 selects among the services providers that it supervises" (Figure 17A, and page 114 lines 20-21.

"As shown in Figure 19, "[a]t operation 1906, a service provider to which to assign the media service component is selected from a plurality of service providers of a network" (page 132, lines 1-2). Moreover, the specification recites, "...service location manger 120 selects among the services providers that it supervises which one is to perform the service identified from message 2" (Figure 17A, and page 114 lines 20-22).

The service provider is informed of the assignment to perform the media service component, causing the service provider to prepare to perform the streaming media service on streaming media. For example, as recited in the specification, "[a]t operation of 1908 of Figure 19, the service provider selected to perform the media service component is informed of its assignment, therein enabling the requested streaming media service to be performed on streaming media" (page 132, lines 7-10). Moreover the specification recites that, "...client device 150 sends message 5 to service provider 130...[m]essage 5 identifies the item of content and the type of service to be performed by service provider 130" (Figure 17A and page 118, lines 7-9). The specification additionally recites that, "...message J can be used to provide to service provider 130 the identity of the item of content and perhaps the identity of the content source 110" (Figure 17B and page 123 lines 4-5).

Information is used to determine whether to initiate a handoff of the streaming media service from the service provider to another service provider. For example, as shown in Figure 16, "[a]t operation 1620, the service location manager uses the information received to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of the media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider" (page 92, lines13-15). Figure 14A, item 120 shows an example of types of information used by the service location manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff.

If it is determined to initiate a handoff, the handoff is initiated. For example, as shown in Figure 16, "[a]t operation 1630, if the service location manager 120 determines to initiate the handoff, the handoff is initiated between the service providers..." (page 92 lines 20-22).

2. Claim 54

As recited in Claim 54, a "computer-readable comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for implementing a method for managing a streaming media service" is described. This embodiment is depicted in Figures 19 and 16. As shown at Figure 19, "[a]t operation 1902, a request for a streaming media service is received from a client wherein the streaming media service includes a media service component" (page 131, lines 16-20. Moreover, the specification recites that, "[a]t the beginning of a session, client device 150 sends message 1 to a portal (e.g., 140). It is noted that message 1 identifies a particular item of content (e.g., the name of a movie)" page 108, lines 9 - 12 and Figure 17A. "...[M]essage 1 includes information sufficient for identifying a type of service that should be performed on the item of content before the service result is delivered to client device 150 and/or to other destination devices" (Figure 17A and page 108, lines 14 - 19). The specification recites that, "[a] type of service may be performed on an item of content before the content is provided to the client device...[t]ypes of service can include the processing of an item of content and/or the analysis of an item of content" (page 95, lines 16-22).

"At operation 1904 of Figure 19, a service location manager to which to provide the request is selected from a plurality of service location managers" (page 131, lines 22-25). Moreover, the specification recites that "[a]fter receiving message 1, portal 140 selects a serviced location manager (e.g., 120 or 122) to which to send message 2" (page 109 lines 12-13). The service location manger is configured for selecting a service provider from a plurality of services providers, for example, the "...[s]ervice location manger 120 (and 122)

can maintain a record that includes a list of the service providers (e.g., 130 and 132) and the services they are capable of providing" (Figure 17A and page 114 lines 8-10); and the "...service location manger 120 selects among the services providers that it supervises" (Figure 17A, and page 114 lines 20-21.

"As shown in Figure 19, "[a]t operation 1906, a service provider to which to assign the media service component is selected from a plurality of service providers of a network" (page 132, lines 1-2). Moreover, the specification recites, "...service location manger 120 selects among the services providers that it supervises which one is to perform the service identified from message 2" (Figure 17A, and page 114 lines 20-22).

The service provider is informed of the assignment to perform the media service component, causing the service provider to prepare to perform the streaming media service on streaming media. For example, as recited in the specification, "[a]t operation of 1908 of Figure 19, the service provider selected to perform the media service component is informed of its assignment, therein enabling the requested streaming media service to be performed on streaming media" (page 132, lines 7-10). Moreover the specification recites that, "...client device 150 sends message 5 to service provider 130...[m]essage 5 identifies the item of content and the type of service to be performed by service provider 130" (Figure 17A and page 118, lines 7-9). The specification additionally recites that, "...message J can be used to provide to service provider 130 the identity of the item of content and perhaps the identity of the content source 110" (Figure 17B and page 123 lines 4-5).

Information is used to determine whether to initiate a handoff of the streaming media service from the service provider to another service provider. For example, as shown in Figure 16, "[a]t operation 1620, the service location manager uses the information received to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of the media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider" (page 92, lines13-15). Figure 14A, item 120 shows an

example of types of information used by the service location manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff.

If it is determined to initiate a handoff, the handoff is initiated. For example, as shown in Figure 16, "[a]t operation 1630, if the service location manager 120 determines to initiate the handoff, the handoff is initiated between the service providers..." (page 92 lines 20-22).

3. Claim 61

As recited in Claim 61, a "system for providing streaming content to a client device" is described. The system comprises a plurality of service location managers, each service location manager capable of managing a handoff of a service based on information received (see e.g., Figure 14A and 14B item 120; and Figure 17A, items 120 and 122). As recited in the specification, "the service location manager 120 includes an information receiving module 121 for receiving information...the service location manager 120 has a handoff determination module 122 for using the information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of the media served sessions from a service provider to another service provider" (page 87, lines 17-22).

The system also comprises a plurality of service providers, each service provider capable of performing said service on an item of streaming input content to produce the streaming content (see e.g., Figure 14A items 130A, 130B, 130C, and 130D; also see Figure 17A items 130, 132, 134, and 136). The specification recites, for example, "... services such as those described above can be performed by service providers 130, 132, 134, and 136...service providers 132, 134, and 136 each function to provide one or more types of services" (page 97, lines 15-18).

The system also comprises a portal (e.g., portal 140 of Figures 14A, 17A, and 17B) providing a first point of contact for the client device (e.g., client device 150 of Figures 17A and 17B, and/or client device 150B of Figure 14A) the portal for receiving from the client device a request for performance of the service on the item of streaming input content (see e.g., page 108, line 9 - page 109, line 2), the portal for selecting a service location manager to which to provide the request from said plurality of service location managers (see e.g., page 113, lines 11-15), the served location manager (e.g., service location manager 120 of Figures 14A, 14B, 17A, and 17B) for receiving the request from the portal and for selecting a service provider of the assignment to perform the service on the streaming input content to produce the streaming content (see, e.g., page 114, lines 20-22), wherein the service location manager uses information (see e.g., information received by service manager 120 in Figure 14A; see also Figure 14B and page 87, lines 15-19) to determine whether to initiate a handoff of the service from the service provider to another service provider (see e.g., page 87, lines 19-22).

VI. Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 1 and 36-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,706 by Kenner et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Kenner" reference.

VII. Argument:

Whether Claims 1 and 36-74 are Anticipated Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Kenner.

Claims 1 and 36-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kenner. Appellants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1 and 36-74 are not anticipated by Kenner in view of the following rationale.

According to MPEP 2131, "to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Further, as cited in MPEP 2131, "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Additionally, according to MPEP 2131, "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). "The elements must be arranged as required by the claim..." MPEP 2131 citing In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Appellants respectfully submit that Kenner does not teach or suggest the claimed embodiments in the manner set forth in independent Claims 1 and 54. More specifically, Kenner does not teach or suggest "[a] method for managing a streaming media service" including the expressly recited limitation of "receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said steaming media service comprising a media service component," (emphasis added) as is recited in Claims 1 and 54.

The Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not teach or suggest, either expressly or inherently, the limitation of, "receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said streaming media service comprising a media service component," (emphasis added) as is recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is not anticipated. Instead,

Kenner and the claimed embodiments are very different. Per Appellants' understanding, the Kenner reference teaches a system and method for optimized storage and retrieval of data on a distributed computer network. See, e.g., the Abstract and col. 5, lines 24-29 of Kenner. Additionally, per Appellants' understanding, the Kenner reference teaches managing received requests for a delivery site (26, 28, 30), which a user terminal can receive content from. See, e.g., col. 7, line 65 - col. 8, line 5. However, in the Kenner reference, Appellants understand that a delivery site 12 is merely a site which stores data or files for delivery (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 60-65), and does not receive a request for or provide a "streaming media service comprising a media service component", as is recited in Claim 1. Thus, the Kenner reference appears silent with respect to, "receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said streaming media service comprising a media service component," (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1.

The rejection (paragraph 9, page 12) contends that the Kenner reference "...teaches optimizing the transmission of the data, which is a service performed on the data." Appellants disagree with this contention. Instead, per Appellants' understanding the Kenner reference teaches network performance improvements and transmission error reductions are attained by "decreasing the distance between the user and the provider or delivery site..." (col. 7, lines 35-40). At most, Appellants understand Kenner to teach selecting a transmission site that is located "electronically near each user", so that "packet losses and delays are reduced" (col. 7, lines 40-59). Appellants respectfully submit that nothing resembling a media service component is mentioned by the Kenner reference. Thus, the teachings of the Kenner reference are very different from, "receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said streaming media comprising a media service component," (emphasis added) as recited in Claims 1 and 54. Therefore, for at least this reason, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 1 or Claim 54.

Furthermore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Kenner reference is silent with regard to, "selecting a service location manager to which to provide said request from a plurality of service location managers, said service location manager configured for selecting a service provider from a plurality of service providers", as recited in Claims 1 and 54. The rejection (page 3) contends that the Kenner reference teaches this limitation by "using a MSP to select a service provider; in col. 7, line 63-67, col. 8, lines 1- 5." Appellants disagree. Instead, per Appellants understanding, the Kenner reference teaches a system with only one MSP (mirror service provider). See Figure 1, item 32 of the Kenner reference. Thus even if a mirror service provider of Kenner could be equated to a service location manager as recited in Claims 1 and 54, there is no teaching of "selecting a service location manager..." as there is only one MSP in the system taught by Kenner. Appellants submit that this is not a teaching that shows an identical invention in as complete detail as is contained in the Claims 1 and 54. Therefore, for this additional reason Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 1 or Claim 54.

Additionally, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not teach the limitation of, "selecting said service provider to which to assign said media service component from a plurality of service providers of a network", as are recited in Claim 1. As previously described, a delivery site as disclosed by Kenner merely stores data or files for delivery. Further, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference is silent with respect to any delivery site which is capable of performing a media service component. Thus, as Kenner does not teach delivery sites which are equipped to perform a media service component, the managing and selecting of delivery sites as taught in Kenner (col. 7, line 60 - col. 8, line 5) is fundamentally different than "selecting said service provider to which to assign said media service component from a plurality of service providers of a network," as recited in Claim 1 and Claim 54. Therefore, for this additional reason, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 1 or Claim 54.

Moreover, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference is silent with respect to the limitation of, "informing said service provider of said assignment to perform said media service component, causing said service provider to perform said streaming media service on streaming media," as is recited in Claims 1 and 54. The rejection (page 3) contends that the Kenner reference teaches this limitation by "sending stream to client after quality of service standards are met; column 13, lines 1-10." However, Appellants disagree. A reading of the cited section shows no such teaching regarding quality of service standards. Rather, Appellants understand the cited section to refer to a visual interface upon which a user "terminal 12 and delivery sites are displayed as 'blips' superimposed over a map..." As previously indicated Appellants submit that the Kenner reference is, in fact, silent with respect to any delivery site which is capable of performing a media service component. Thus it is not possible for the Kenner reference to "inform said service provider of said assignment to perform said media service component." Therefore, for this additional reason, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 1 or Claim 54.

In view of the claim limitations not being taught in Kenner, and in combination with the above arguments, Appellants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 54 overcome the cited reference and are therefore allowable over 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of anticipation by Kenner. Appellants also respectfully submit that Kenner does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 36-53 that depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 55-60 that depend from independent Claim 54, and that these Claims overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) through dependency on allowable base claims.

Additionally, Appellants respectfully submit that Kenner does not teach or suggest the claimed embodiments in the manner set forth in independent Claim 61. More specifically, Kenner does not teach or suggest "[a] system for providing a streaming content to a client device" as is recited in Claim 61.

As previously indicated, Appellants respectfully submit that the Kenner reference is silent with respect to, "a plurality of service location managers" as is recited in Claim 61. The rejection (page 8) contends that this limitation is taught in col. 12, lines 36-42 and col. 13, lines 1-60. However, Appellants have reviewed the cited sections and can find no such teaching. At most, the Appellants understand the Kenner reference to teach a single Mirror Service Provider (see item 30 of Kenner's Figure 1). However, even assuming that the mirror service provider of the Kenner reference can be equated to a "service location manager" of the present invention, the Kenner reference teaches a system (Figure 1) that relies upon only one mirror service provider. Thus per Appellants' understanding, the single mirror service provider of Kenner is very different than "a plurality of service location managers," as recited in Claim 61. Therefore, for at least this reason, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 61.

Further, Appellants respectfully submit that the Kenner reference is silent with respect to, "a plurality of service providers, each service provider capable of performing said service on an item of streaming input content to produce said streaming content", as recited in Claim 61. Appellants refer to the discussion of Claims 1 and 54 above, which indicates that the delivery sites disclosed by Kenner merely store data or files for delivery, as opposed to the service providers recited in Claim 61, which are "capable of performing said service on an item of streaming input content to produce said streaming content". Therefore, for this additional reason, Appellants submit that the Kenner reference does not anticipate Claim 61.

In view of the claim limitations not being taught in Kenner, and in combination with the above arguments, Appellants respectfully submit that independent Claim 61 overcomes the cited reference and is therefore allowable over 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of anticipation by Kenner. Appellants also respectfully submit that Kenner does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 62-74 that depend

from independent Claim 61, and that these Claims overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) through dependency on allowable base claims.

In summary, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections of the Claims are improper as the rejection of Claims 1 and 36-74 does not satisfy the requirements of a *prima facie* case of anticipation. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1 and 36-74 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are improper and should be reversed.

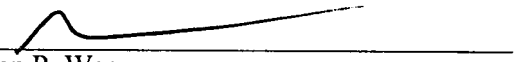
Conclusion

Appellants believe that pending Claims 1 and 36-74 are patentable over the Kenner reference.

Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 and 36-74 be reversed. The Appellants wish to encourage the Examiner or a member of the Board of Patent Appeals to telephone the Appellants' undersigned representative if it is felt that a telephone conference could expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
WAGNER BLECHER LLP

Dated: 5/21, 2007



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VIII. Appendix - Clean Copy of Claims on Appeal

1. (previously presented) A method for managing a streaming media service, said method comprising:

receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said streaming media service comprising a media service component;

selecting a service location manager to which to provide said request from a plurality of service location managers, said service location manager configured for selecting a service provider from a plurality of service providers;

selecting said service provider to which to assign said media service component from a plurality of service providers of a network;

informing said service provider of said assignment to perform said media service component, causing said service provider to prepare to perform said streaming media service on streaming media;

using information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of said streaming media service from said service provider to another service provider; and

if it is determined to initiate said handoff, initiating said handoff.

Claims 2-35 (canceled)

36. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said information comprises information received from said service providers and information associated with location and priority of said service providers.

37. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said information comprises information received from any client device that is involved in said streaming media service.

38. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said information comprises information associated with network conditions.

39. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises:

maintaining a record comprising identifying information for a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers; and

selecting said service location manager in a round robin manner from said record.

40. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises a comparison of available resources of a first set of service providers supervised by a first service location manager and available resources of a second set of service providers supervised by a second service location manager.

41. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises a comparison of processing loads of at least two service location managers among said plurality of service location managers.

42. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager is based on an estimate of a network communication condition between two entities connected by the network.

43. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:

notifying a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of the assignment of said service provider to perform said media service component.

44. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said service provider is supervised by more than one service location manager among said plurality of service location managers.

45. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 44, further comprising:

maintaining a record comprising identifying information of a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers, each service location manager of said set of service location managers supervising said service provider; and

notifying said set of service location managers according to said record of said assignment of said service provider to perform said media service component.

46. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving resource availability information from said plurality of service providers, wherein said information is ascertained from ongoing resource measurements; and

said selecting said service provider based on said resource availability information.

47. (previously presented) The method as described in claim 46, wherein said resource availability information is pushed from said plurality of service providers.

48. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 46, wherein said receiving resource availability information occurs in response to polling of said service providers.

49. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service provider is based on static service provider information or static network information.

50. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 49, wherein said static service provider information or static network information consists of at least one of the following: information concerning computational and memory resources, connectivity and expected bandwidth and latency between servers, client and content addresses, session dispatch history, and network proximity.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting said service provider comprises:

maintaining a record comprising assignments of service providers to perform media service components; and

said selecting said service provider based on said record.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting said service provider comprises:

maintaining a record comprising assignments of service providers to perform media service components;

receiving resource availability information from said plurality of service providers, wherein said information is ascertained from ongoing resource measurements; and

said selecting said service provider based on said resource availability information and said record.

53. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service provider is based on an estimate of resources associated with performing said service.

54. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for implementing a method for managing a streaming media service, said method comprising:

receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client, said streaming media service comprising a media service component;

selecting a service location manager to which to provide said request from a plurality of service location managers, said service location manager configured for selecting a service provider from a plurality of service providers;

selecting said service provider to which to assign said media service component from a plurality of service providers of a network;

informing said service provider of said assignment to perform said media service component, causing said service provider to prepare to perform said streaming media service on streaming media; and

using information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of said streaming media service from said service provider to another service provider.

55. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 54, wherein said information comprises information received from said plurality of service providers and information associated with location and priority of service providers.

56. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 54, wherein said information comprises information received from any client device that is involved in said streaming media service.

57. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 54, wherein said method further comprising:

notifying a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of the assignment of said service provider to perform said media service component.

58. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 57, wherein said notifying is performed by said service provider or said service location manager.

59. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 54, wherein said method further comprising:

receiving resource availability information from said plurality of service providers, wherein said information is ascertained from ongoing resource measurements; and

said selecting said service provider based on said resource availability information.

60. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 59, wherein said resource availability information is poll-based information or push-based information.

61. (previously presented) A system for providing streaming content to a client device, said system comprising:

a plurality of service location managers, each service location manager capable of managing a handoff of a service based on information received;

a plurality of service providers, each service provider capable of performing said service on an item of streaming input content to produce said streaming content; and

a portal providing a first point of contact for said client device, said portal for receiving from said client device a request for performance of said service on said item of streaming input content, said portal for selecting a service location manager to which to provide said request from said plurality of service location managers, said service location manager for receiving said request from said portal and for selecting a service provider from said plurality of service providers and informing said service provider of said assignment to perform said service on said streaming input content to produce said streaming content, wherein said service location manager uses information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of said service from said service provider to another service provider.

62. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said information includes information received from said service providers.

63. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said information includes information received from said client device.

64. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said information includes information associated with network conditions.

65. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said portal maintains a record comprising a prioritized listing of at least one service location manager among said plurality of service location managers and selects said service location manager in order of priority according to said prioritized listing.

66. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said portal selects said service location manager by comparing available resources of a first set of service providers supervised by said service location manager and available resources of a second set of service providers supervised by a second service location manager.

67. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said portal selects said service location manager based on an estimate of a network communication condition between two entities connected by the network.

68. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service provider or said service location manager notifies a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of said assignment of said service provider to perform said service.

69. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said portal activates a second service location manager of said plurality of service location managers to perform the operation of said service location manager, provided said portal determines said service location manager to be non-responsive.

70. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service provider is supervised by more than one service location manager of said plurality of service location managers.

71. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service provider is supervised by a first service location manager, and wherein said first service location manager transfers supervision of said service provider to a second service location manager.

72. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service location manager receives resource availability information from said plurality of service providers, and wherein said selecting said service provider is based on said resource availability information.

73. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service location manager maintains a record comprising assignments of service providers to perform services, and wherein said selecting said service provider is based on said record.

74. (previously presented) The system of Claim 61, wherein said service location manager selects said service provider based on static service provider information or static network information.

IX. Evidence Appendix

No evidence is herein appended.

X. Related Proceedings Appendix

No related proceedings.